

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A method for providing access to resources, comprising the steps of:
 acquiring user identification information from a first authentication system,
 said user identification information is associated with a request to access a first
 resource, said step of acquiring is performed by an authorization system, said
 authorization system is separate from said first authentication system;
10 using said user identification information to access an identity profile
 associated with said user identification information; and
 performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource
 based on said identity profile associated with said user identification information.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein:
 said step of acquiring user identification includes reading a user ID from an
 internal web server variable.
3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:
20 allowing a first user to access said first resource if said step of performing
 determines that said first user is authorized to access said first resource based on said
 identity profile, said first user is associated with said identity profile and said request.
4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
25 receiving information about said request;
 determining whether said first resource is protected; and
 determining that authentication for said first resource is to be performed by
 said first authentication system.
- 30 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said step of acquiring user identification includes acquiring a plurality of data items which can be used to identify a user.

6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

5 acquiring one or more data items in addition to said user identification information, said step of performing authorization services uses said one or more data items to attempt to authorize access to said first resource in response to said request.

10 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality of resources, said plurality of resources includes said first resource, a second resource and a third resource;

15 said first resource uses said first authentication system for authentication services;

said second resource uses a second authentication system for authentication services, said second authentication system is separate from said access system; and

said third resource uses a third authentication system for authentication services, said third authentication system is separate from said access system.

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8. A method according to claim 7, wherein:

said first authentication system is a default web server authentication system;

said second authentication system is an authentication plug-in; and

said third authentication system is a third party authentication system.

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9. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more

external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

5 said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality of resources and does not have an application program interface.

11. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
using said user identification information to create information for a cookie;

10 and

causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request.

12. A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:
15 performing single sign-on services based on said cookie.

13. A method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said second resource includes contents of said cookie; and

20 using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

14. A method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to access a second resource at a second server, said
25 request to access said first resource was received at a first server but not at said second server, said first authentication system does include said first server and does not include said second server, said step of receiving said request to access said second resource includes receiving contents of said cookie; and

30 using said cookie at said second server to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

15. A method for providing access to resources, comprising the steps of:
acquiring a plurality of variables from a first authentication system, said step
of acquiring is performed by an authorization system, said authorization system is
5 separate from said first authentication system, said variables are associated with a
first request to access a first resource; and
performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource
based on said plurality of variables.

10 16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
receiving information from said first request;
determining whether said first resource is protected; and
determining that authentication for said first resource is to be performed by
said first authentication system.

15 17. A method according to claim 15, wherein:
said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality
of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal
authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more
20 external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems
include said first authentication system.

18. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
using said plurality of variables to create information for a cookie; and
25 causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with
said request.

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:
performing single sign-on services based on said cookie.

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20. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to access a second resource at a second server, said request to access said first resource was received at a first server but not at said second server, said first authentication system does include said first server and does not include said second server, said step of receiving said request to access said second resource includes receiving contents of said cookie; and

using said cookie at said second server to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

21. A method for providing access to resources, comprising the steps of:

acquiring user identification information from an authentication system, said user identification information is associated with a request to access a first resource, said step of acquiring is performed by an authorization system, said authorization system is separate from said authentication system;

using said user identification information to create information for a cookie;

causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request to access said first resource; and

performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein:

said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

23. A method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of:

performing single sign-on services based on said cookie.

24. A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said
second resource includes contents of said cookie; and
using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without
5 authenticating.

25. A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to access a second resource at a second server, said
request to access said first resource was received at a first server but not at said
10 second server, said first authentication system does include said first server and does
not include said second server, said step of receiving said request to access said
second resource includes receiving contents of said cookie; and
using said cookie at said second server to authorize access to said second
resource without authenticating.

26. A method for providing access to resources, comprising the steps of:
receiving, at an access system, configuration information for a first resource,
said access system provides for using of one or more internal authentication systems
and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication
20 systems, said configuration information provides an indication to said access system
to rely on a first external authentication system for said first resource;
receiving a first request from a first user for said first resource;
relying on said first external authentication system for authenticating said
first user; and
25 performing authorization services for said first request.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein said one or more external
authentication systems include:
a default web server authentication system;
30 an authentication plug-in; and

a third party authentication system.

28. A method according to claim 26, wherein:

5 said access system protects a plurality of resources, said plurality of resources includes said first resource, a second resource and a third resource;

said first resource uses said first authentication system for authentication services;

said second resource uses a second authentication system for authentication services, said second authentication system is separate from said access system; and

10 said third resource uses a third authentication system for authentication services, said third authentication system is separate from said access system.

29. A method according to claim 28, wherein:

said first authentication system is a default web server authentication system;

15 said second authentication system is a authentication plug-in; and

said third authentication system is a third party authentication system.

30. A method according to claim 26, wherein said step of relying includes:

20 accessing a pre-designated variable having a value; and
storing said value as an identification of an authenticated user.

31. A method according to claim 30, wherein said step of performing authorization services includes the steps of:

25 accessing one or more authorization rules for said first resource;
using said identification to access an identity profile; and
evaluating one or more attributes from said identity profile against said one or more authorization rules for said first resource to determine whether to authorize access to said first resource.

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32. One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

5 acquiring user identification information from a first authentication system, said user identification information is associated with a request to access a first resource, said step of acquiring is performed by an authorization system, said authorization system is separate from said first authentication system;

10 using said user identification information to access an identity profile associated with said user identification information; and

 performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource based on said identity profile associated with said user identification information.

15 33. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

 receiving information about said request;

 determining whether said first resource is protected; and

 determining that authentication for said first resource is to be performed by said first authentication system.

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34. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

25 acquiring one or more data items in addition to said user identification information, said step of performing authorization services uses said one or more data items to attempt to authorize access to said first resource in response to said request.

35. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 32, wherein:

said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

36. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

using said user identification information to create information for a cookie;
causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request; and
performing single sign-on services based on said cookie.

37. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

using said user identification information to create information for a cookie;
causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request;

receiving a request to access a second resource at a second server, said request to access said first resource was received at a first server but not at said second server, said first authentication system does include said first server and does not include said second server, said step of receiving said request to access said second resource includes receiving contents of said cookie; and

using said cookie at said second server to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

38. An access system, comprising:
a communication interface;
one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said communication interface, said one or more processors programmed to perform a method comprising the steps of:

5 acquiring user identification information from a first authentication system external to said access system, said user identification information is associated with a request to access a first resource,

using said user identification information to access an identity profile associated with said user identification information, and

10 performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource based on said identity profile associated with said user identification information.

39. An access system according to claim 38, wherein:

15 said access system protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

20 40. An access system according to claim 38, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

using said user identification information to create information for a cookie;
causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request;

25 receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said second resource includes contents of said cookie; and

using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

30 41. An access system according to claim 38, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving information about said request;
determining whether said first resource is protected; and
determining that authentication for said first resource is to be performed by
said first authentication system.

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42. One or more processor readable storage devices having processor
readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor
readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method
comprising the steps of:

10 acquiring a plurality of variables from a first authentication system, said step
of acquiring is performed by an authorization system, said authorization system is
separate from said first authentication system, said variables are associated with a
first request to access a first resource; and

performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource
15 based on said plurality of variables.

43. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim
42, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving information from said first request;
20 determining whether said first resource is protected; and
determining that authentication for said first resource is to be performed by
said first authentication system.

44. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim
25 42, wherein:

said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality
of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal
authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more
external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems
30 include said first authentication system.

45. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 42, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

using said plurality of variables to create information for a cookie;

5 causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request;

receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said second resource includes contents of said cookie; and

10 using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

46. An access system, comprising:

a communication interface;

one or more storage devices; and

15 one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said communication interface, said one or more processors programmed to perform a method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a plurality of variables from a first authentication system external to said access system, said variables are associated with a first request to
20 access a first resource, and

performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource based on said plurality of variables.

47. An access system according to claim 46, wherein said method further
25 comprises the steps of:

receiving information from said first request;

determining whether said first resource is protected; and

determining that authentication for said first resource is to be performed by said first authentication system.

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48. An access system according to claim 46, wherein:

5 said access system protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

49. An access system according to claim 46, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

10 using said plurality of variables to create information for a cookie;
causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request;
receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said second resource includes contents of said cookie; and
15 using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

50. One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method
20 comprising the steps of:

acquiring user identification information from an authentication system, said user identification information is associated with a request to access a first resource, said step of acquiring is performed by an authorization system, said authorization system is separate from said authentication system;
25 using said user identification information to create information for a cookie;
causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request to access said first resource; and
performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource.

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51. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 50, wherein:

said authorization system is part of an access system that protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication systems, said one or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

52. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 50, wherein said method further comprises the step of:
performing single sign-on services based on said cookie.

53. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 50, wherein said method further comprises the step of:
receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said second resource includes contents of said cookie; and
using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

54. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 50, wherein said method further comprises the step of:
receiving a request to access a second resource at a second server, said request to access said first resource was received at a first server but not at said second server, said first authentication system does include said first server and does not include said second server, said step of receiving said request to access said second resource includes receiving contents of said cookie; and
using said cookie at said second server to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

55. An access system, comprising:

a communication interface;

one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said communication interface, said one or more processors programmed
5 to perform a method comprising the steps of:

acquiring user identification information from an authentication system separate from said access system, said user identification information is associated with a request to access a first resource,

10 using said user identification information to create information for a cookie,

causing said cookie to be transmitted for storage on a client associated with said request to access said first resource, and

performing authorization services for said request to access said first resource.

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56. An access system according to claim 55, wherein:

said access system protects a plurality of resources, said access system provides for use of one or more internal authentication systems and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication systems, said one
20 or more external authentication systems include said first authentication system.

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57. An access system according to claim 55, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

performing single sign-on services based on said cookie.

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58. An access system according to claim 55, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

receiving a request to access a second resource, said request to access said second resource includes contents of said cookie; and

using said cookie to authorize access to said second resource without authenticating.

59. An access system according to claim 55, wherein said method further
5 comprises the step of:

receiving a request to access a second resource at a second server, said
request to access said first resource was received at a first server but not at said
second server, said first authentication system does include said first server and does
not include said second server, said step of receiving said request to access said
10 second resource includes receiving contents of said cookie; and

using said cookie at said second server to authorize access to said second
resource without authenticating.

60. One or more processor readable storage devices having processor
15 readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor
readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method
comprising the steps of:

receiving, at an access system, configuration information for a first resource,
said access system provides for using of one or more internal authentication systems
20 and said access system provides for reliance on one or more external authentication
systems, said configuration information provides an indication to said access system
to rely on a first external authentication system for said first resource;

receiving information for a first request from a first user for said first
resource;

25 relying on said first external authentication system for authenticating said
first user; and

performing authorization services for said first request.

61. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 60, wherein:

said access system protects a plurality of resources, said plurality of resources includes said first resource, a second resource and a third resource;

5 said first resource uses said first authentication system for authentication services;

said second resource uses a second authentication system for authentication services, said second authentication system is separate from said access system;

10 said third resource uses a third authentication system for authentication services, said third authentication system is separate from said access system;

said first authentication system is a default web server authentication system;

said second authentication system is a authentication plug-in; and

said third authentication system is a third party authentication system.

15 62. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 60, wherein:

said step of relying includes accessing a pre-designated variable having a value and storing said value as an identification of an authenticated user; and

said step of performing authorization services includes the steps of:

20 accessing one or more authorization rules for said first resource,

using said identification to access an identity profile, and

evaluating one or more attributes from said identity profile against said one or more authorization rules for said first resource to determine whether to authorize access to said first resource.

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63. An access system, comprising:

a communication interface;

one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said communication interface, said one or more processors programmed to perform a method comprising the steps of: .

5 providing for using of one or more internal authentication systems,
 providing for reliance on one or more external authentication systems,
 receiving configuration information for a first resource, said
configuration information provides an indication to rely on a first external
authentication system for a first resource,
 receiving information for a first request from a first user for said first
10 resource,
 relying on said first external authentication system for authenticating
said first user, and
 performing authorization services for said first request.

15 64. An access system according to claim 63, wherein:
 said access system protects a plurality of resources, said plurality of resources
includes said first resource, a second resource and a third resource;
 said first resource uses said first authentication system for authentication
services;
20 said second resource uses a second authentication system for authentication
services, said second authentication system is separate from said access system;
 said third resource uses a third authentication system for authentication
services, said third authentication system is separate from said access system;
 said first authentication system is a default web server authentication system;
25 said second authentication system is a authentication plug-in; and
 said third authentication system is a third party authentication system.

 65. An access system according to claim 63, wherein:
 said step of relying includes accessing a pre-designated variable having a
30 value and storing said value as an identification of an authenticated user; and

- said step of performing authorization services includes the steps of:
- accessing one or more authorization rules for said first resource,
 - using said identification to access an identity profile, and
 - evaluating one or more attributes from said identity profile against said one or more
- 5 authorization rules for said first resource to determine whether to authorize access to said first resource.

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